

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 28, 2002 with claims 1-20. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 19 and 20 are the independent claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0122403 (hereinafter "Hashem").

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Hashem.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashem in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,011,775 (hereinafter "Bonomi").

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashem in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0159411 (hereinafter "Airy").

Claims 6-14 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In this response, Applicants amend the claims, and respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Dependent claims 6, 7 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form, and are believed allowable in accordance with the indication of allowable subject matter.

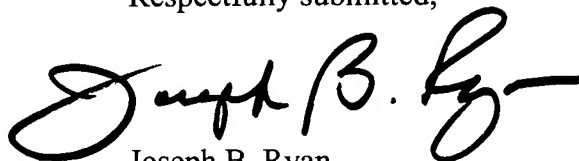
Independent claims 1, 19 and 20 have been amended to clarify that at least a given one of the locations of the time slot table is configurable for storing identifiers of at least two of the transmission elements that have generated colliding requests to transmit respective data blocks in the corresponding time slot. Also, the claims as amended indicate that less than all of said at least two transmission elements that have their respective identifiers stored in the given location and have generated the colliding requests are permitted to transmit a data block in the corresponding time slot.

Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 6-16; page 3, line 26, to page 4, line 2; page 7, lines 17-22; page 10, line 18, to page 11, line 7; page 13, lines 21-27; and page 15, lines 7-8. It is to be appreciated, however, that the details of the illustrative embodiments described in these particular passages should not be viewed as limitations or requirements of the claimed invention.

The Hashem, Bonomi and Airy references, taken alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1-20 as amended herein.

Accordingly, claims 1-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph B. Ryan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Joseph B. Ryan
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 37,922
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-7517